

# Noah Webster Elementary School



## Proposed Removal Action

*DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



### INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet describes the environmental investigations, proposed removal action, and announces the 30-day public comment period and community meeting for Noah Webster Elementary School.

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) is planning to install a lunch court shelter at Noah Webster Elementary School, located at 4801 Elm Street in San Diego.

A historic burn ash landfill is located beneath a portion of the school site. SDUSD conducted environmental investigations at Noah Webster Elementary School with oversight by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

### SITE INVESTIGATION

The evaluation of environmental conditions at the school site began in March 2001 with an investigation conducted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The purpose of the CIWMB investigation was to evaluate the nature and extent of burn ash and extent of cover fill at the school site.

Upon DTSC notification of the existence of the burn ash beneath the school by the SDUSD, DTSC recommended completion of a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) to determine whether there are any hazardous substances associated with the burn ash that pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Based on results of the PEA, a Focused Site Investigation, was conducted to determine the nature and extent of dioxins and furans within the burn ash.

### Community Meeting Announcement

**Noah Webster Elementary School  
Auditorium  
4801 Elm Street  
San Diego, CA 92102  
Wednesday, July 7, 2004  
6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

DTSC will provide a presentation explaining the contaminants found at the site and the cleanup process. There will be a question and answer session following the presentation.

**Spanish translation will be  
provided at the meeting.**

### Public Comment Period

The draft RAW is available for review and public comment at the repositories listed at the end of this document during the public comment period from:

June 17 to July 16, 2004

**Written comments on the draft RAW  
must be post marked by  
July 16, 2004, and sent to:**

**Ms. Robbie Morris  
Project Manager  
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control  
9174 Sky Park Ct, Suite 150  
San Diego, CA 92123-4340  
Email: [rmorris@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:rmorris@dtsc.ca.gov)**

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Results of environmental investigations indicate that elevated concentrations of lead and dioxins/furans, exist in the burn ash material above acceptable human health risk values based on an unrestricted land use scenario. The burn ash is covered by clean fill, asphalt and/or Decomposed Granite (DG) rock. This currently provides adequate protection to students and faculty from potential exposure to the burn ash.

As a result of the investigation's findings, SDUSD is preparing a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) that specifies the removal, handling, and disposal of burn ash encountered during construction of the new lunch court shelter.

### **DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN (RAW)**

The draft RAW identifies possible removal action alternatives. These alternatives are screened based on their effectiveness, ability to implement, and overall cost. Based on this screening, three alternatives were selected for further evaluation:

- Alternative 1 – No Action
- Alternative 2 – Excavation and Off-site Land Disposal
- Alternative 3 – Containment Via Engineered Cap

Based on the removal action selection process, Alternative 2, Excavation and Off-site Land Disposal, has been selected as the cleanup alternative. This alternative was selected because it was determined to be protective of human health and the environment, easily implemented, and cost-effective.

### **PROPOSED REMOVAL ACTION ACTIVITIES**

The field activities will be conducted with oversight by the DTSC. It is estimated that up to approximately 900 cubic yards of soil will be excavated from beneath the lunch court area. This soil will be removed from an area measuring approximately 40 by 90-

feet. Conventional construction equipment, such as a tracked loader equipped with a backhoe, will be used to remove the soil. Excavated soils/burn ash will be transported on approximately 55 trucks to a permitted offsite disposal facility.

As stated in the RAW, the following protective measures will be implemented to prevent potential exposure to burn ash materials at the site during the removal.

- Construction activities that have potential to generate burn ash-containing waste will not be conducted when school is in session.
- Temporary fencing will be installed as necessary to restrict access to the construction area.
- During soil excavation activities, the work area will be controlled with physical barriers to avoid dust generation.
- The excavated soils/materials will be directly loaded into the transportation trucks to limit the potential for exposure. The trucks will be covered to prevent dust from blowing.
- Dust will be suppressed by lightly spraying or misting the work areas with water.
- Airborne dust will be continuously monitored throughout the excavation activities using real-time dust monitors.

SDUSD is required to notify DTSC prior to the implementation of any additional intrusive work, such as construction activities, on the property.

### **NOTICE OF EXCEPTION (NOE)**

DTSC prepared a draft NOE for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project is considered exempt because it will not have a significant effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume, short project duration, and controlled manner in which the burn ash-containing soils will be excavated and transported. Additionally, the removal action costs will not exceed \$1 million, which

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meets the CEQA exemption requirement based on a Class 30 exemption as described in Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15330.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

All comments on the draft final RAW must be postmarked by July 16, 2004. After the public comment period ends, DTSC will evaluate all comments received, direct necessary revisions, and approve the RAW for implementation. If the RAW is approved, fieldwork may begin in late July 2004. Field activities associated with the RAW will last approximately 20 days.

SDUSD will submit the confirmation sampling results to DTSC in a Removal Action Completion Report for DTSC review and approval. A copy of this report will be available in the information repositories.

It should be noted that a separate site-wide RAW is being prepared by SDUSD to address long-term management of the school with respect to the fill and burn ash material. This site-wide RAW is also being prepared under the oversight of DTSC.

### For More Information

**If you have questions regarding the DTSC environmental investigation, please contact:**

Robbie Morris, DTSC Project Manager, at (858) 637-5536

Yvette LaDuke, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2909

Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, at (818) 551-2176

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con:*

*Mr. Peter Garcia, Branch Chief at (714) 484- 5310*

### SDUSD Contact:

**Jim Bray, Civil/Environmental Engineering Coordinator, at (858) 573-5773**

**Project Documents are available for public review at the following locations:**

#### **Oak Park Branch Library**

2802 54th Street

San Diego, CA 92105

Phone: (619) 527-3406

Hours: 12:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Mon. & Wed.

9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Tues.,

Thur., Fri., and Sat.

#### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Regional Records Office

5796 Corporate Avenue

Cypress, CA 90630

Contact: Julie Johnson

Phone: (714) 484-5337

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 pm., Mon - Fri

#### **San Diego Unified School District**

Facilities Management

Maintenance and Operations Center

4860 Ruffner Street

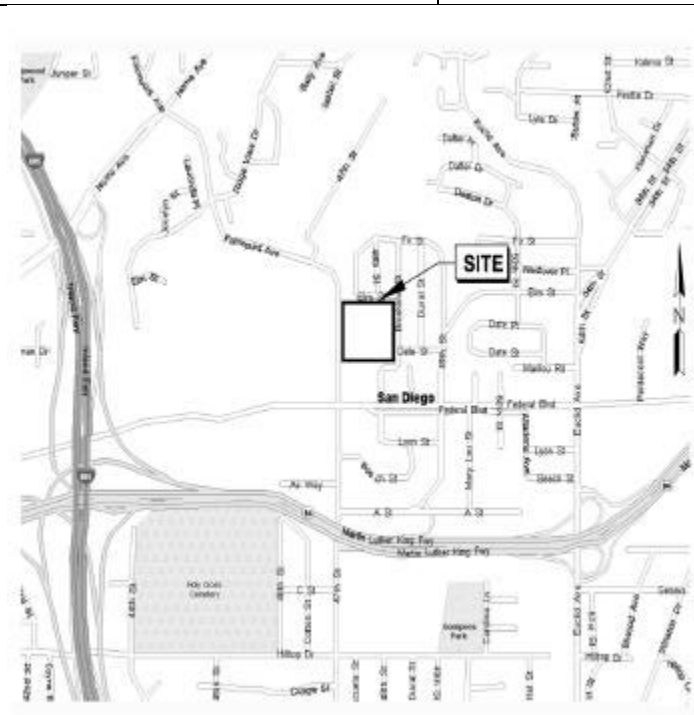
San Diego, CA 92111-1522

Contact: Jim Bray

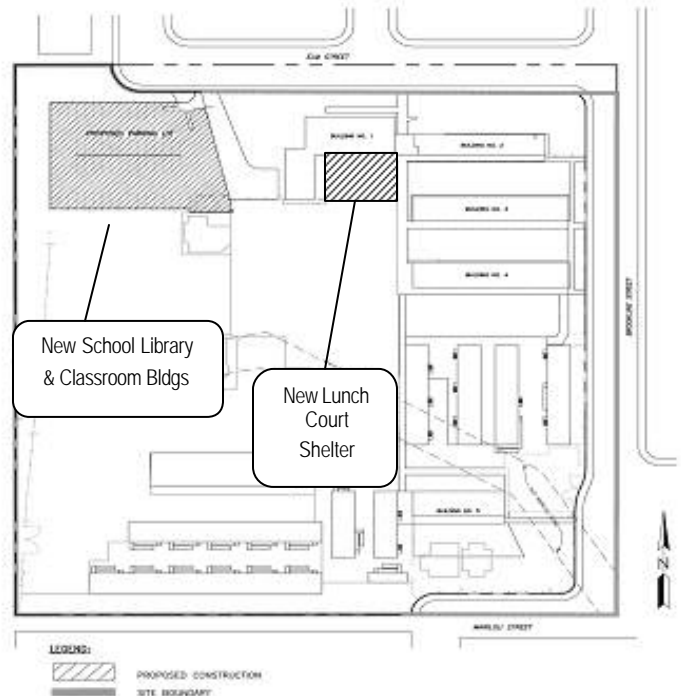
Phone: (858) 573-5773

Hours: 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Mon.-Fri.



**Site Location Map**



**Campus Layout Map**

### Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD) or by calling Yvette LaDuke, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2909.

For meeting accessibility or to request reasonable accommodations, please call Yvette LaDuke at (818) 551-2909.

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## COMMENT FORM

If you have any comments concerning the **Noah Webster Elementary School RAW**, please fill in the information below and mail by **July 16, 2004** to: *Ms. Robbie Morris, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 150, San Diego, CA 92123-4340*. Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the Response to Comments when the final RAW is issued.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ (optional) E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Comments (*attach additional pages if needed*)

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